From: John R. Wolfe [mailto:jwolfe@igc.org] Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2006 9:28 AM

To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov; raynor@ci.monterey.ca.us

Cc: MLPA@yahoogroups.com; Marc Shargel; Kaitilin Gaffney; Christy Semmens

Subject: MLPAComments: Breakwater Fish Species Biodiversity

Package 2 of the Central Coast Regional Stakeholders Group (CCRSG) recommends that the north side of the Monterey Breakwater (also known as the Monterey Coast Guard Pier) be included in a no-take State Marine Reserve.

Strong reasons for Marine Reserve status include the intense recreational use of this area by SCUBA divers (it's the most popular dive site on the west coast of North America), and removing the danger to divers being hooked by a small group of pier fishermen (in documented cases between Jan - Sept 2005, a diver was hooked on average every 19 days). Sea lions and harbor seals in the area have also been observed with hooks embedded in various parts of their bodies.

One lesser-known reason for including the Breakwater in a State Marine Reserve is the unusually high fish species biodiversity in this small area. The combination of deeply fissured rocky reef, kelp canopy and adjacent sandy bottom, and the confluence of the northern and southern California fish species, all contribute to this fish species diversity. Volunteer recreational divers for the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) have conducted over 8,500 surveys of fish species at hundreds of dive sites along the west coast. The greatest species richness reported by REEF along the entire west coast occurs at the Monterey Breakwater (see http://www.reef.org/stats.htm). Attached is a composite list of 97 fish species observed at the Breakwater by REEF divers, and by Dan Gotshall, retired marine biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game and the author of the book Pacific Coast Inshore Fishes.

The Breakwater has also played a historic role in marine biology. The Masked Prickleback Eel was unknown to science until the 1960s when it was discovered at the Breakwater by David Powell, the former Director of Live Exhibit Development at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

In summary, the Breakwater is a unique marine habitat with tremendous species biodiversity, and deserves Marine Reserve protection.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Wolfe, SE (former CCRSG member) 2320 Blake Street Berkeley, CA 94704 510-540-0422 jwolfe@igc.org

Fishes Observed at the Monterey Breakwater and Surrounding Soft Bottoms by Dan Gotshall, 1962-2004, and by 246 REEF surveys, 1997-2005

	Common Name, Scientific Name	Observed	by	Comments
1	Spotted rat fish, Hydrolagus colliei	Gotshall		
2	Thornback, Platyrhinoidis triseriata	Gotshall	REEF	
3	Bat ray, Myliobatis californica	Gotshall	REEF	
4	Pacific electric ray, Torpedo californica	Gotshall	REEF	
5	Green sturgeon, Acipenser medirostris	Gotshall		Wolfe has also seen at nearby Metridium Fields
6	California lizardfish, Synodus lucioceps	Gotshall		
7	Spotted cusk-eel, Chilara taylori	Gotshall	REEF	
8	Red brotula, Brosmophycis marginata	Gotshall	REEF	
9	Plainfin midshipman, Porichthys notatus	Gotshall	REEF	
10	Kelp clingfish, Rimicola muscarum	Gotshall	REEF	
11	Tubesnout, Aulorhynchus flavidus	Gotshall	REEF	
12	Bay pipefish, Sygnathus leptorhynchus	Gotshall	REEF	
13	Bocaccio, Sebastes paucispinis*	Gotshall	REEF	
14	Black rockfish, Sebastes melanops*	Gotshall	REEF	
15	Blue rockfish, Sebastes mystinus*	Gotshall	REEF	
16	Yellowtail rockfish, Sebastes flavidus*	Gotshall	REEF	
17	Olive rockfish, Sebastes serranoides*	Gotshall	REEF	
18	Canary rockfish, Sebastes pinniger*	Gotshall	REEF	
19	Vermilion rockfish, Sebastes miniatus*	Gotshall	REEF	
20	Kelp rockfish, Sebastes atrovirens*	Gotshall	REEF	
21	Grass rockfish, Sebastes rastrelliger	Gotshall	REEF	
22	Brown rockfish, Sebastes auriculatus*	Gotshall	REEF	
23	China rockfish, Sebastes nebulosus*	Gotshall	REEF	
24	Black and yellow rockfish, Sebastes chrysomelas*	Gotshall	REEF	
25	Gopher rockfish, Sebastes carnatus*	Gotshall	REEF	
26	Copper rockfish, Sebastes carnatus*	Gotshall	REEF	
27	Halfbanded rockfish, Sebastes semicinctus*	Gotshall		Juveniles also reported by Tom Laidig (NOAA biologist)
28	Stripetail rockfish, Sebastes saxicola*	Gotshall		Juveniles also reported by Tom Laidig (NOAA biologist)
29	Treefish, Sebastes serriceps	Gotshall	REEF	
30	Kelp greenling, Hexagrammos decagrammus	Gotshall	REEF	
31	Rock greenling, Hexagrammos supercilliosus	Gotshall	REEF	
32	Painted greenling, Oxylebius pictus	Gotshall	REEF	
33	Lingcod, Ophiodon elongatus*	Gotshall	REEF	
34	Coralline sculpin, Artedius corallinus	Gotshall	REEF	
35	Red Irish lord, Hemilepidotus hemilepidotus	Gotshall	REEF	
36	Brown Irish lord, Hemilepidotus spinosus	Gotshall	REEF	
37	Pacific staghorn sculpin, Leptocottus armatus	Gotshall	REEF	
38	Sailfin sculpin, Nautichthys oculofasciatus	Gotshall	REEF	
39	Snubnose sculpin, Orthonopias triacis	Gotshall	REEF	
40	Cabezon, Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*	Gotshall	REEF	

Prgmy poacher, Obstatypusk rispinosa Goldal REF	41	Manacled sculpin, Synchirus gilli	Gotshall		
Kelp hass, Paralabrax clathratus Goshall REF	42	Pygmy poacher, Odontopyxis trispinosa	Gotshall	REEF	
AS Ocean whitefish, Caulolatilus princeps Goshall REEF	43	Snailfish, Liparis sp.	Gotshall		
Age	44	Kelp bass, Paralabrax clathratus	Gotshall	REEF	
Halfmoon, Medialana californieusis Gostala REEF	45	Ocean whitefish, Caulolatilus princeps	Gotshall		
Scipe sursperch, Dranologasier aggregate Secondary	46	Opaleye, Girella nigricans	Gotshall	REEF	
Shiner surfperch, Cymalogaster aggregata Gosthall REEF	47	Halfmoon, Medialuna californiensis	Gotshall	REEF	
Pile surfperch, Damalichlify succas Goshall REF	48	Kelp surfperch, Brachyistius frenatus	Gotshall	REEF	
Striped Kelpfish, Gibbonsia metzi Striped Kelpfish, Gibbonsia	49	Shiner surfperch, Cymatogaster aggregata	Gotshall	REEF	
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Salarhow surfperch, Hyssurus caryi	51	Black surfperch, Embiotoca jacksoni*	Gotshall	REEF	
Sharpuose surfperch, Phanerodon fariges Gosthall REEF	52	Striped surfperch, Embiotoca lateralis*	Gotshall	REEF	
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Rubberlip surfperch, Rhacochilus toxotes Gotshall REF	54	Sharpnose surfperch, Phanerodon atripes	Gotshall	REEF	
Second	55	White surfperch, Phanerodon furcatus	Gotshall	REEF	
Secontia, Oxyjulis californica Gotshall REEF	56	Rubberlip surfperch, Rhacochilus toxotes	Gotshall	REEF	
Senorita, Oxyjulis californica California sheephead, Semicossyphus pulcher* Codshall California sheephead, Semicossyphus pulcher* Codshall California sheephead, Semicossyphus pulcher* Codshall	57	Walleye surfperch, Hyperprosopon argenteum	Gotshall		
Conting the sheephead, Semicossyphus pulcher* Gotshall REEF Cotshall REEF Cotshall REEF Cotshall REEF Cotshall REEF Cotshall REEF Reference Refe	58	Blacksmith, Chromis punctipinnis	Gotshall	REEF	
Stripefin ronquil, Rathbunnella allen' Gotshall REFF Gotshall REFF	59	Senorita, Oxyjulis californica	Gotshall	REEF	
Monkeyface prickelback, Cebidichthys violaceus Gotshall	60	California sheephead, Semicossyphus pulcher*	Gotshall	REEF	
Gotshall	61	Stripefin ronquil, Rathbunnella alleni	Gotshall	REEF	R. hypoplecta?
Keb gunnel, Uvicola sanctacrosac Gotshall REEF	62	Monkeyface prickelback, Cebidichthys violaceus	Gotshall	REEF	
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Gotshall	64	Kelp gunnel, Ulvicola sanctacrosac	Gotshall		
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83 Giant Kelpfish, Heterostichus rostratus Gotshall REEF 84 Reef Surfperch, Micrometrus Aurora REEF			Gotshall		
84 Reef Surfperch, Micrometrus Aurora REEF		• •			Distinguished by larger size than Crevice Kelpfish, even soft fin spacing at posterior end of dorsal fin.
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85 Barred Sand Bass, Paralabrax nebulifer REEF Eschemeyer et al report northern limit is Santa Cruz	85	Barred Sand Bass, Paralabrax nebulifer		REEF	Eschemeyer et al report northern limit is Santa Cruz

86	Round Stingray, Urolophus halleri	REEF	Eschemeyer et al report northern limit is Eureka
87	Diamond Turbot, Hypsopsetta guttulata	REEF	Eschemeyer et al report northern limit is Cape Mendocino
88	California Halibut, Paralichthys californicus	REEF	
89	Northern Anchovy, Engraulis mordax	REEF	
90	Zebra Goby, Lythrypnus zebra	REEF	Eschemeyer et al report northern limit is Carmel Bay; Gotshall remembers reliable reports at Breakwater during El Nino
91	Sablefish, Anoplopoma fimbria *	REEF	Adults deeper than 1,000 feet, individual seen was subadult
92	Jackmackeral, Trachurus symmetricus	REEF	
93	Pacific Sardine, Sardinops sagax	REEF	
94	Swell Shark, Cephaloscyllium ventriosum	REEF	Eschemeyer et al report northern limit is Monterey Bay
95	Rock Sole, lepidopsettta bilineata	REEF	Eschemeyer et al report southern limit is Tanner Bank (s. calif.)
96	Northern Clingfish, Gobiesox maeandricus	REEF	
97	Giant Sea Bass, Stereolepis gigas	REEF	Spotted by Alan Dower, a very experienced and reliable REEF fish surveyor,
			having made 144 fish counts as of August 2005. Verified as possible
	* Juveniles		by Dan Gotshall, who remembers sightings from the 1950s and 1960s.